

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 281325Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0528
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0824

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, YE, ET
SUBJ: YEMENI/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

REF: SANA 619, SANA 699

DURING MY FEBRUARY 27 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI, WE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE CURRENT STATE OF YEMENI/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. THE PRESIDENT CONFIRMED THAT THESE RELATIONS REMAIN STRAINED. HE ADDED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAJ'S RECENT INVITATION (SEE SANA 619) TO THE ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO COME TO SANA TO DISCUSS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO STATES HAD BEEN MET WITH AN ETHIOPIAN COUNTER-SUGGESTION THAT AL-ASNAJ GO TO ADDIS ABABA. AL-HAMDI INDICATED THAT THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THIS INVITATION BECAUSE OF ITS DESIRE TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE. AL-HAMDI SAID THAT A DATE WILL BE SET FOR THE VISIT AFTER AL-ASNAJ RETURNS TO SANA FROM HIS CURRENT TRIP TO EUROPE.

2. PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI STATED THAT DURING HIS FEBRUARY 15 MEETING WITH SOUTH YEMENI PRESIDENT RUBAY'I ALI (SEE SANA 699) THE LATTER MENTIONED THAT ADEN'S RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA HAVE
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BECOME EVEN CLOSER SINCE THE MENGISTU TAKEOVER OF THE ETHIOPIAN REGIME, PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI NOTED THAT MENGISTU IN A RECENT PUBLIC SPEECH CHARACTERIZED THE ADENI GOVERNMENT AS THE ONLY FRIEND IN THE AREA OF ETHIOPIA WHIC HE SAID WAS SURROUNDED BY "ENEMIES" INCLUDING YEMEN.

3. I MENTIONED TO PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRA-

TION IS STUDYING THE SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA VERY CAREFULLY BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE USG ATTACHES TO THE REGIME. IN THIS REGARD, I OBSERVED THAT SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE HAD A FEW DAYS EARLIER MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY THAT AID TO ETHIOPIA MIGHT BE REDUCED BECAUSE OF OUR CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAT COUNTRY. PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI REPLIED THAT YEMEN HAS LONG BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE LEVEL OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO A REGIME WHICH HE SAID IS GETTING INCREASINGLY RADICAL AND UNSTABLE. HE WONDERED IF IT IS TRUS THAT THE US RECENTLY DELIVERRD MODERN AIRCRAFT TO THE ADDIS ABABA REGIME. I TOLD HIM I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH DELIVERIES BUT WOULD CHECK WITH THE DEPARTMENT. HE ASKED ME TO LET HIM KNOW WHAT THE REPLY IS. HE CONCLDED BY SAYING THAT YEMEN WISHES TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL ITS NEIGHBORS BUT ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT. THE ETHIOPIAN REGIME HAS UNFORTUNATELY NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY COOPERATIVE.

4. COMMENT: WILL DEPARTMENT PLEASE PROVIDE ME WITH WHAT INFORMATION ON US MILITARY DELIVERIES TO ETHIOPIA I MIGHT BE ABLE TO PASS TO PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI.
SCOTES

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